

first class with his wide seats and free liquor.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE LINE-ITEM VETO: WIN ONE FOR THE GIPPER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. Fox] is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I quote from President Ronald Reagan's final State of the Union Address on January 25, 1988. He said at that time,

Let's help ensure our future of prosperity by giving the President a tool that, though I will not get to use it, is one that I know future Presidents of either party must have. Give the President the same authority that 43 Governors use in their states: the right to reach into massive appropriation bills, pare away the waste, and enforce budget discipline. Let's approve the line item veto.

We have the opportunity, hopefully by Monday, to pass that important legislation to reduce wasteful spending. On Monday it will be former President Ronald Reagan's birthday.

The line-item veto, together with a balanced budget amendment, constitutes the Fiscal Responsibility Act pledged by Republicans in the Contract With America. These two measures will work together to restore fiscal responsibility to an out-of-control Congress.

Every year, ridiculous projects and tax benefits are buried in appropriation bills and tax bills. It is clear from the writings of Madison and Hamilton in the Federalist Papers that the Framers intended a two-branch review of all laws, including appropriations. The line-item veto will restore the constitutional system of checks and balances over each individual appropriation, preventing future Congresses from effectively eliminating the President's veto authority through creative legislative packaging.

The States, the laboratories of democracy under our decentralized federalist system, have proven that the line-item veto works. State legislatures have recognized its effectiveness as an important tool in restraining the growth of government.

The goal of the line-item veto is to allow the President to rescind pork-barrel spending. Pork-barrel projects are usually attached to bills of vital importance to the continued operation of the Government or bills that enjoy wide popularity. As such, the bill is assured of passage and the President's signature. All of this will change with the adoption of the line-item veto.

The years 1993 and 1994 saw plenty of wasteful appropriations that would have been targets for the veto pen if the President had been able to exercise that authority. These are just a few: Fifteen billion to build never authorized courthouses opposed by the Federal judges in the region where they were to be built; 1.1 million for a plant stress lab; and 35 million to eradicate screw worms in Mexico.

I call on my colleagues on Monday to adopt this important legislation unanimously, a line-item veto, to help us restore fiscal responsibility to the United States of America.

SUPPORT HEAD START

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Ms. WATERS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, in 1965 the Office of Economic Opportunity launched Project Head Start to help break the cycle of poverty. It provided pre-school children of low-income families with a comprehensive program to meet their emotional, social, health, nutritional, and psychological needs. In 1969, Head Start became a permanent program within the Administration on Children, Youth and Families at the Department of Health and Human Services. Since its beginning, Head Start has served over 13.1 million children and their families, representing all races, classes, and regions of this country.

After nearly 30 years, Head Start is being recognized by educators, child development specialists, community leaders, and parents across the Nation as the most successful publicly funded children's program there is. However, this program is now in jeopardy—it could be cut—it could even be eliminated.

The Republican Contract With America proposes to take Head Start out of the hands of local communities and make it a function of State child care block grants. This would be disastrous.

First of all, Head Start is not a child care program. Head Start is a comprehensive family-focused developmental program that addresses child and family needs. Head Start puts a premium on parent involvement by encouraging parents to participate in important program decisions. Head Start staff are members of the communities they serve, many are former Head Start parents. Program decisions are based on community needs, as defined by the community. Block granting Head Start would undo local control of addressing unique community needs. At a time when so much emphasis is placed on personal and family responsibility, it is more important than ever to have a program that is family-oriented. By lumping Head Start with other children's programs, the focus on families will be lost and important elements such as parenting skills, male involvement, literacy, and employment skills would be compromised.

Mr. Speaker, I have received numerous letters from concerned parents and educators urging this Congress not to destroy the Head Start Program. Many parents have shared their personal experiences with me. They tell how Head Start has helped their families, how they have learned to be advocates for their children. Many of these parents started out as volunteers with their local Head Start Programs and went on to become permanent employees. I think these are the stories that we need to hear.

Head Start must remain in the hands of local communities to ensure that important program elements are maintained. Head Start makes it possible for millions of children to look forward to a better future. To change the program now will close the door of opportunity on millions of children yet to step through a Head Start classroom door.

Head Start is an investment in the human potential of children—children who often fall behind in their first years of school and find their troubles compounded in later years. These children belong to all of us; they are the children of the Nation. We must preserve Head Start as a Federal to local program. We can no longer afford to sit back and hope that logic and sense of what is right will prevail. We need a national mobilization around Head Start, a coming together of parents, educators, community leaders, and public officials. A national mobilization that will transcend the traditional political process. Together we can make a difference. Let's not turn our backs on our children.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. NEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. NEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, tonight I want to discuss an issue that I believe is critical to successful welfare reform. That is the whole issue of child support enforcement.

The interests of our children must come first in welfare reform. We cannot look out for those interests unless we demand more responsibility from their parents, especially in the area of child support.

Our country's failure to adequately collect child support has had a devastating impact on our children. The statistics are startling. Sixty-three